

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 672

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2511

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJ: VISIT OF TREASURY TAX TREATY NEGOTIATING TEAM

REFS: A) TEHRAN 2246, B) STATE 51631, C) TEHRAN 2167; D)
STATE 27490

1. EMBOFF TELEPHONED E. AMID-HOZOUR, ECONOMICS ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, ON MARCH 18 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAX TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. AMID- HOZOUR URGED STRONGLY THAT U.S. DELEGATION ARRIVE ON MARCH 28 SO THAT DISCUSSIONS CAN BEGIN ON MARCH 29 RATHER THAN MARCH 31. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH MARCH 31 (MOHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY) AND APRIL 2 (SIZDAH, 13TH DAY AFTER BEGINNING OF IRANIAN YEAR) ARE OFFICIAL GOI HOLIDAYS. WHILE HE AND MOEAF UNDER SECRETARY DR. AHMAD KOOROS, WHO WILL LEAD IRANIAN SIDE, ARE WILLING TO WORK ON MARCH 31, THERE PROBABLY WILL BE DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING OTHER IRANIANS TO DO SO. AMID-HOZOUR ADDED THAT HE AND DR. KOOROS MUST BE IN LONDON ON APRIL 4. WHILE THEIR DEPARTURE PLANS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE, HE IS NOT CERTAIN THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS ON APRIL 3.

2. AMID-HOZOUR APOLOGIZED FOR NOT RAISING SCHEDULING PROBLEMS SOONER AND SAID MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ANY CASE SHOULD NOT HAVE INDICATED GOI AGREEMENT TO DATES SO SOON AFTER IRANIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. HE SUGGESTED POSTPONING TAX TREATY NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FEW WEEKS. EMBOFF POINTED OUT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS ON U.S. SIDE MENTIONED IN REFERENCE D. AMID-HOZOUR
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SAID IRANIANS DO NOT WANT TO DELAY TAX TREATY DISCUSSIONS FOR

AS LONG AS LATE SUMMER AND VERY MUCH HOPE U.S. DELEGATION CAN
BE IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS ON MARCH 29 AND 30 AND APRIL 1, WHICH
SHOULD GIVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.
HELMS

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NNN

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